The Arabian Sun

Vol. LXIX, No. 32, August 13, 2014

Ithra Knowledge

The Ithra Knowledge program continues to attract visitors.

See page 4

Stadiums plan presents opportunities for business community

See page 3

In Distribution, Safety comes first

Cover Story

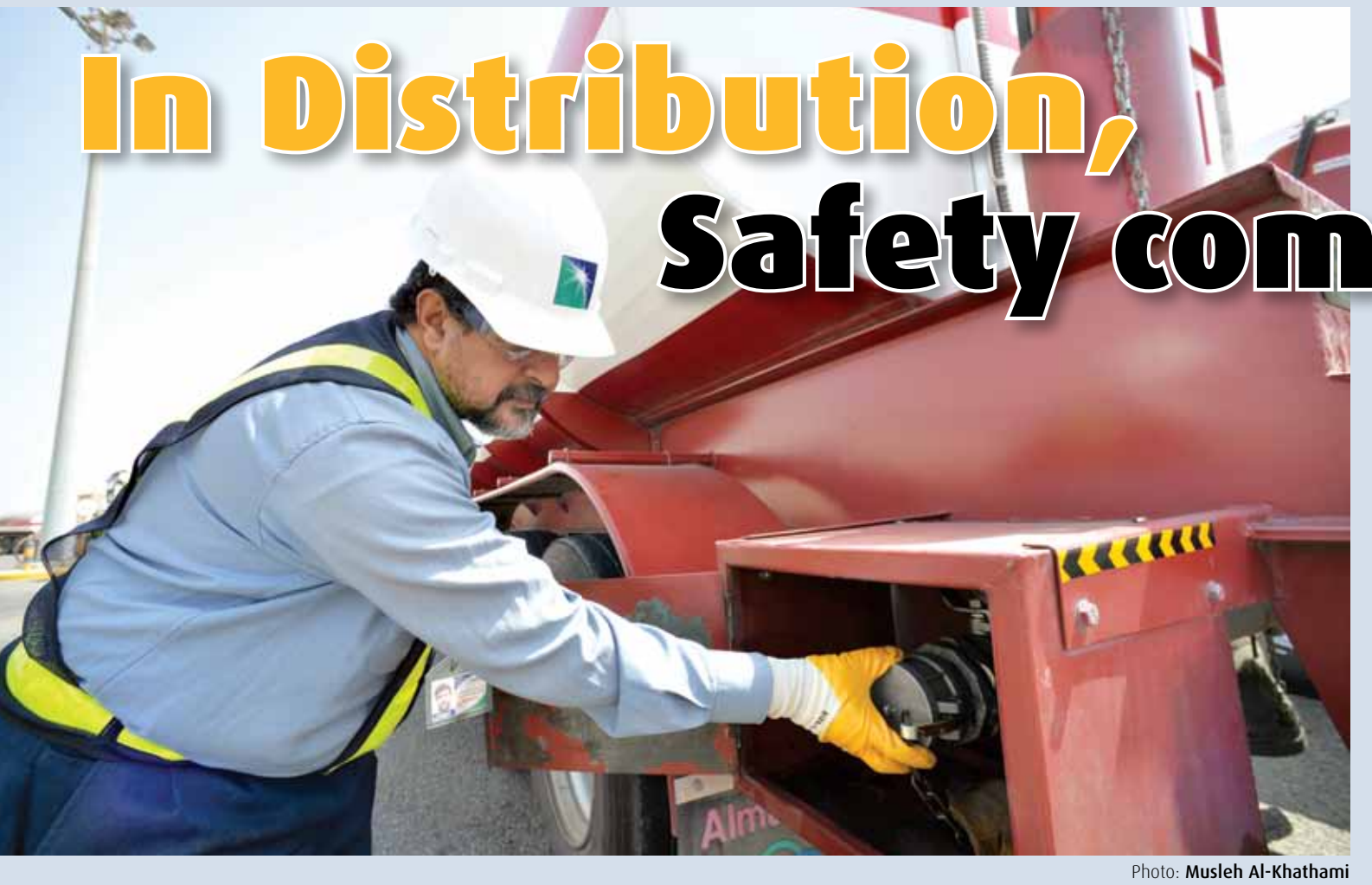

Photo: **Musleh Al-Khathami**

■ Saleem M. Al Reefi from the North Jiddah Bulk Plant inspects a truck that will be transporting company products.

- **Saudi Aramco's Domestic Sales and Logstics Department** (DS&LD) has issued the "*Guidebook for Defensive Drivers*," in a bid to raise driving safety awareness.
- **The guidebook includes the most** important safety instructions to be followed during the transport of various petroleum products.
- **More than 3,000** oil tankers belonging to contractor companies transport Saudi Aramco products across the Kingdom.

See full story on page 5

Saudi Aramco by the Numbers

2,117,664

SR has been donated by employees to the tablet campaign for needy school children as of August 12.

GMs appointed

Saudi Aramco announces the appointment of four general management level positions.

...see page 3

مركز جونز هوبكنز أرامكو الطبي
Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare

JHAH Health Watch

The Ministry of Health rules out Ebola as the cause of death in Jiddah fatality

Ebola: The current situation and sensible precautions

The current Ebola outbreak, which started in May this year, is centered on three countries in West Africa: Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone; although there have also been cases reported in Nigeria. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), as of August 4, the cumulative number of cases attributed to Ebola in the four West African countries stands at 1,711, including 932 deaths.

Saudi Arabia announced that it is not issuing visas for the 2014 Hajj and Umrah to pilgrims from Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea due to these countries reporting cases of Ebola.

A suspected case of Ebola was reported in Jiddah. This patient passed away on August 6. The Ministry of Health confirmed in a statement on their website that the Saudi businessman had been on a trip recently to Sierra Leone and was admitted and investigated for possible Ebola virus infection. In a subsequent statement released by the Ministry on August 9 from Jiddah, it was confirmed that samples submitted to an international reference laboratory were negative for the Ebola virus. Tests conducted at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), indicate Ebola virus was not the cause of this patient's illness. CDC is conducting additional tests to confirm the negative Ebola finding and to determine if the patient was infected with another virus causing hemorrhagic fevers found in Sierra Leone.

Additional Ebola tests will be conducted on samples that have been sent to another international reference laboratory in Hamburg, Germany. The Ministry has announced that the results of these tests will be released to the public once they are complete.

OPEC Basket Weekly Price trend for the past five weeks:

Friday, July 4, 2014 — **$108.03**
Friday, July 11, 2014 — **$105.73**
Friday, July 18, 2014 — **$104.32**
Friday, August 1, 2014 — **$102.09**
Friday, August 8, 2014 — **$102.44**

There are currently no suspected or confirmed cases of ebola in the Eastern Province.

This case was detected by the Ministry's surveillance system, which was established within the Command & Control Center, initiated as part of the MERS-CoV response, and includes real-time monitoring and self-reporting by medical facilities across the Kingdom and medical workers monitoring travelers at airports and seaports. The Ministry also stated that to date there has never been a confirmed case of Ebola in the Kingdom. Although there are currently no suspected or confirmed cases in the Eastern Province, JHAH facilities maintain a high level of vigilance and preparedness.

There is no vaccine available for Ebola and treatment is limited to supportive therapy to help relieve the severity of the symptoms and to control medical complications. There is research being carried out on experimental treatments and vaccines for Ebola in the U.S. It is too early to know whether they are effective, since studies are still in the experimental stage and have not yet been tested in humans for safety or effectiveness.

Hand hygiene can help prevent the transmission of ebola.

As part of JHAH's commitment to an environment of growth and learning, staff is receiving ongoing training, including medical education lectures such as 'Emerging viral infections: From MERS to Ebola', presented by Jaffar A. Al-Tawfiq, MD, FACP, FCCP, JHAH Infectious Disease Specialist and Chair of the Emerging Infectious Disease Task Force.

Dr. Al-Tawfiq commented on the Ebola situation: "Ebola is not a new virus. The current outbreak in West Africa is larger than any previous outbreak. It is highly advisable to avoid travel to affected areas and countries. Remember that hand hygiene and avoiding contact with blood, body fluids and contaminated needles are of outmost importance to prevent the transmission of the disease, in addition to avoiding contact with animals in the affected countries."

Travel restrictions:

The Ministry of Health, Saudi Arabia, advises citizens and residents of Saudi Arabia to avoid all travel to Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea until further notice. This is because of the active outbreak of Ebola virus in those countries. The Ministry continues to monitor the situation in the affected areas of these countries in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO). This travel advisory will be updated if conditions change on the ground in West Africa.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) elevated their warning to U.S. citizens encouraging them to defer unnecessary travel to Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone.

Ebola Questions & Answers

- What is Ebola?
- Ebola — is the cause of a viral hemorrhagic fever disease. Symptoms include: fever, headache, joint and muscle aches, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain, lack of appetite, and abnormal bleeding. Symptoms may appear anywhere from 2 to 21 days after exposure to Ebola — though 8-10 days is most common.

- How is Ebola transmitted?
- Ebola is transmitted through direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected symptomatic person or though exposure to objects (such as needles) that have been contaminated with infected secretions.

- Can Ebola be transmitted through the air?
- No. Ebola is not a respiratory disease like the flu, so it is not transmitted through the air.

- Can I get Ebola from contaminated food or water?
- No. Ebola is not a food-borne illness. It is not a water-borne illness.

Sources: U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Ministry of Health Saudi Arabia, World Health Organization (WHO)

Your Voice

A balanced engineering approach

Motsham Manzoor
Ras Tanura
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Engineers are instrumental in the planning, designing and construction of all sorts of projects such as roads, bridges, educational institutes, medical facilities, sports facilities, office complex and industrial facilities. There is no doubt that engineers are the backbone of any society and play a very dynamic and central role in the development. Do we need a balanced engineering approach for the development of a healthy, energetic and vibrant society similar to a balanced diet which is essential for a healthy body? The answer is yes.

Under a traditional approach, the main focus and consideration is normally on initial investment and minimum attention is paid to social and environmental aspects. A balanced engineering approach for development would require a whole-life perspective optimizing investment and long-term strategy, integrating social and environmental aspects. As said in an old Native American proverb "In every deliberation, we must consider the impact on the seventh generation."

There could be several factors swaying balanced development but most fundamental elements and characteristics of a balanced approach are economic factors, social involvement and equity, and environmental sustainability.

ECONOMIC FACTORS:

A balanced engineering approach not only identifies alternatives after conducting performance analysis but also looks into life cycle cost analysis, choosing the lowest cost alternatives and company bottom line profitability. Investment, private or public, cannot be attracted and materialize unless the project shows positive and promising return on investments.

SOCIAL INVOLVEMENT AND EQUITY:

Practically all developments in society have a social component and are meant for the upward mobility of the people. All projects must be carried out with underlying targets of social improvements and social equity; better quality of life, health and wellness, safety and security. The project and investment must be planned to uplift the personal income per capita and reduce unemployment in the community. All projects must have the approval and consensus of the community. They must alleviate any community concerns due to new projects, such as the influx of people in the community, overcrowded roads, need of schools and hospitals etc.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

Whether small or big, all construction projects and developments have environmental effects and engineers must perform analysis and take remedial action to minimize negative impacts ensuring environmental sustainability. Engineers must look into waste management and recycling, control of air pollution, optimum use of energy and water consumption, minimization of land use and the relocation of natural habitat. All projects must be designed with the belief that present and future generations depend on limited resources and the environment must be protected to safeguard future generations.

The key word here is balance; development and economic growth cannot be sacrificed due to social, environmental and many other urgent worldwide issues, and at the same time, action to control environmental issues such as climate change or air pollution cannot be put off, even though gradually implemented. In a nutshell, environmental and social policies cannot be too aspiring: a balanced approach between economic growth and resource management, between development efforts and environmental sustainability, should be adopted. As said by Phil Harding, archaeologist "A sustainable business is resource efficient, respects the environment and is a good neighbor."

Your Voice reflects the thoughts and opinions of the writer and not necessarily those of the publication.

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Saudi Aramco discusses Kingdom-wide stadium plan

ABDULWAHAB BOZAID

DHAHRAN — The Eastern Province Chamber of Commerce was packed with Saudi businessmen representing construction and engineering companies from across the country last week at a Saudi Aramco forum for discussion about the King Abdullah Program for Constructing Major Stadiums in the Kingdom's Provinces.

Abdulrahman Al-'Utishan, chairman of the board of the Eastern Province Chamber, said the chamber-hosted meeting represented a chance for local companies to see firsthand the many major investments opportunities available through the stadium project.

Abdulhakim al-Ammar, a member of the Eastern Province Chamber board and president of the Contracting Committee, spoke about the unique opportunity associated with the King's program to construct 11 sport stadiums across the Kingdom. Al-Ammar emphasized the preparedness of the contracting sector, noting that these investment opportunities provide the local contracting sector a chance to prove its ability to train and hire Saudis for the completion of these projects.

Motaz al-Mashouk, general manager of Area Projects, thanked the Custodian of Two Holy Mosques for directing Saudi Aramco to execute the stadium construction program, which will contribute to the development of sport and youth sectors in the Kingdom. Al-Mashouk expressed the company's pride in having the opportunity to construct the modern sport facilities and build new partnerships with new contractors.

Saudi Aramco is proud of its pioneering partnership with the private sector, which has resulted in many mega-projects and the emergence of several businessmen in the private sector who have made significant contributions in the execution of vital projects, said Al-Mashouk.

He spoke about the success achieved by the company in developing the supply and contracting sector in the Kingdom, indicating that Saudi Aramco purchases awarded to suppliers in the domestic market last year reached more than 23 billion Saudi riyals. The value of the services contracts awarded to domestic companies has reached 92 percent of the total awarded company contracts.

Common Vision

"Saudi Aramco has tried through this Eastern Province Chamber-hosted meeting to formulate a common vision that establishes a real development of the private sector and allows it maximum possible participation in executing this gigantic program to provide the opportunities to the contracting, engineering and supply chain sectors to thrive and provide more than 10,000 training and employment opportunities for Saudi youths," said Al-Mashouk.

He outlined the huge challenges of executing the construction program, scheduled to be completed in 2 years with the highest world specifications and standards. Saudi Aramco officials also gave a presentation about the dimensions and features of the 11 projects. They outlined the types of the contracts and operations that are required by the projects such as engineering work, soil study, preparation of the site, infrastructure, providing public services, temporary office and accommodation buildings for work crew, security and safety, construction contracts, electricity, mechanical, plumbing, steal structures, road pavement, landscaping, facades, finishing and technical systems.

■ Saudi Aramco's Ibrahim Mowalad addresses attendees at the meeting held at the Dammam Chamber of Commerce.

Company officials provided data on the estimated volume of required materials for the construction increments and the associated various logistics for the projects, outlining expected challenges.

The forum wrapped up with an introductory presentation on the mechanism needed to be followed to work with the company, which included an introduction to Saudi Aramco's contractors registration and approval system.

This was followed by an opened discussion with the attendees in which Nasser Al-Nafisee, acting executive director of Corporate Affairs, Tofiq Al-Gabsani, acting executive director of Projects Management, and Abdulhakim al-'Ammar participated.

Participants' Views

Ibrahim Al-Jomiah, executive president of Al-Jomiah Companies Group, thanked Saudi Aramco for responding to the chamber's invitation to meet with businessmen and contractors.

"Saudi Aramco has provided the opportunity for everyone to participate," he said.

Khalid Al-Abdulkarim, executive president of Al-Abdulkarim Company, said the meeting was very beneficial, noting that the fully packed hall reflected the importance of the project.

"The huge attendance indicates that contractors and Saudi consulting offices have a big desire to be part of the national mega-project."

Abdulaziz al-Yousifi, a member of the Saudi Council of Engineers, said Saudi Aramco continues to support and foster the Kingdom's companies and individuals.

Walid Al-Rumaih, manager of the Power Supply Company for Engineering Consultations, said such meetings are a connecting link between proponents and local contractors.

"Saudi Aramco is always known for commitment to the highest specifications and standards, and contractors who deal with Saudi Aramco know this quite well," said Al-Rumaih. "Anyone who wants to work with Saudi Aramco must rise to the level of these specifications and standards."

Company appoints four to GM level positions

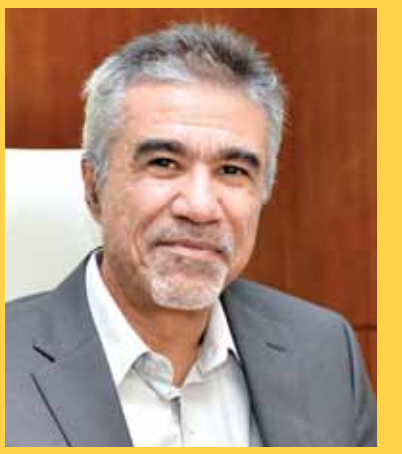
Saudi Aramco has announced the appointment of four people to general management level, effective July 1, 2014.

Ali A. Al-Nojaim assumes the position of general manager with Safaniya Area Producing at Northern Area Oil Operations, Omar S. Al-Husaini has been named general manager, Drilling & Workover Operations, Fuad A. Al-Azman is now general manager of Area Projects for Jazan Area Project Management and Fawwaz I. Nawwab has been appointed president/CEO of SATORP.

■ Ali A. Al-Nojaim

■ Omar S. Al-Husaini

■ Fuad A. Al-Azman



■ Fawwaz I. Nawwab

Al-Nojaim is a graduate of the University of Tulsa, Oklahoma, holding a BSc in Petroleum Engineering, and has attended Saudi Aramco management and leadership courses including the company's Management Development Seminar in Washington, D.C. He has also completed the Advanced Management Program at Oxford University.

Al-Nojaim has over 30 years of experience with Saudi Aramco, in areas including Well Services, Production Engineering, Plant Maintenance and Plant Production Operations, covering both onshore and offshore facilities.

His experience also includes complex project management roles. During the recent Manifa Field Mega Project Development, Al-Nojaim was the proponent manager, with responsibilities including the coordination of international engineering construction agencies and interface management. He was also the proponent manager during Saudi Aramco's offshore Karan Field Development Project ¬— the company's first offshore high pressure gas field. He led the Operations team through the design phase, construction and commissioning.

Al-Husaini has held various managerial positions within the Drilling & Workover organization, both in Engineering as well as Operations. Also, he has been involved in the Shaybah increment, the HRDH/HWYH Gas program, as well as the first offshore gas programs in the Karan and the Hasbah/Arabiyah fields.

Al-Husaini was hired in 1981. He completed his BS in Petroleum Engineering from KFUPM in 1981 and MS in Petroleum Engineering from Kansas University in 1987. After a couple of assignments with Reservoir Engineering, he started his journey with the Drilling & Workover Organization. During his 30 years with Drilling & Workover, Al-Husaini took on assignments with Production Engineering, Facilities and Planning within Upstream while also obtaining his MS degree out of Kingdom.

Al-Husaini is a member of the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) and has participated in numerous conferences as a keynote speaker, a panelist, as well as a conference chairman.

Al-Azman takes on the role of general manager of Area Projects for Jazan Area Project Management after spending the past year as head of the Facilities Planning Department.

Prior to that, he had served as a manager of megaprojects with the Jazan Refinery & Terminal Projects Department.

Al-Azman graduated from Washington University in St. Louis, U.S. in 1983 with a BS in Electrical Engineering and completed his MS in Business Administration from Central Michigan University in 1990 before joining Saudi Aramco in 1992. He started his career with the company as a project engineer with Project Management and progressed through Project Management to head several departments, including the Southern Area Project Department in 2004, where he successfully completed Haradh GOSP III increment in a record time of less than two years. Al-Azman then moved on to head the Karan Gas Project Department in 2008, where he managed the engineering and construction of the first non-associated offshore Karan Gas Program.

Nawwab joined Saudi Aramco in 1983 after receiving a BS degree in Chemical Engineering from the King Fahad University of Petroleum and Minerals in Dhahran. During his 31-year career with Saudi Aramco, he has had a wide range of experience and responsibilities, including Engineering, Maintenance, Plant Operations and Planning and Scheduling.

His most recent assignment has been to serve as the president & CEO of Saudi Aramco Total Refining & Petrochemical Company (SATORP), overseeing the completion of a state-of-the-art refinery while continuing to build the company at the same time.

Prior to this, he held several professional, supervisory, middle management and management positions at Berri Gas Plant, Ju'aymah Gas Plant, Oil Supply Planning and Scheduling Department, Ras Tanura Refinery, Gas/NGL Planning and Domestic Marketing Department. While at Ju'aymah, Nawwab helped to coordinate the biggest expansion in the gas plant's history to increase the processing capacity by 50 per cent.

He also served as president & CEO of Saudi Aramco Mobil Refinery Company Ltd. (SAMREF) from 2005 to 2010. During this period, two major turnarounds in the refinery were completed successfully and safely.

Joy is the Color of the Art Café in iThra Knowledge

Colors of joy and beautiful scents permeated the Art Café workshops that showcased the drawings of the iThra Knowledge visitors. This month-long program was launched in Riyadh on the second day of 'Id.

The drawings were infused with breathtaking colors and spoke of beauty ideals. Visitors of all ages used their tools of choice to draw scenes born from their imagination and painted with all the colors of the spectrum in a new and creative way.

Innovative drawings were being created in several areas inside the Art Café workshops ,which encompassed plastic arts, Arabic calligraphy, crafts, free and digital art, and Origami. There were also other sections in the iThra Knowledge Exhibition organized by Saudi Aramco at the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Center.

Sahar Al-Hamud, the section supervisor, said that "the Art Café is all about artworks that speak the same language and represent all cultures. These works were brought together to be presented by the visitors and to the visitors in cheerful and creative colors. We derived our works and ideas from different cultures, mixing them with new and global ideas to offer both entertainment and benefit."

■ Thousands of children have been given the chance to release their artistic skills at the Ithra Knowledge program.

■ The Art Café workshops attract adults and children alike.

She said that the supervisors of the corners inside the Art Café are adept at embracing, polishing and enhancing talents among the visitors. The Art Café doors are open to people between the ages 5 to 23. She added that this section runs several training workshops in many fields, including origami, which is considered one of the most important Japanese art forms, as well as the art of drawing in water colors from the Turkish civilization, the art of drawing in the dark, sand drawing and others.

She added: "Some arts are new and strange, such as drawing in the dark in which children are encouraged to overcome their fear of darkness and make creations in a stark dark environment. So they did just that in a beautiful scene that took the audience's breath away. There is also the art of feathers in which children use feathers to make marionettes, then they come up with fictional stories and play it out on a small stage starring the feather marionettes."

Special guests experience Ithra program

■ Ambassador of Argentina to Saudi Arabia Jaime Sergio Cerda said he was amazed by the incredible number of exhibitions and activities at the Ithra Knowledge Program during his visit and tour last week.

Day after day, thousands of Riyadh's residents and neighbors are putting iThra Knowledge program on their to-go list. The number of visitors has remarkably increased and can be noted in the lobbies of the Riyadh International Convention and Exhibition Center where unique ideas are converging on many awareness and social issues. There are also scientific, cultural and educational exhibitions of all kinds.

Amid the crowds teeming the various exhibitions, official delegations can be seen touring the premises of the program, which has become the talk of the Saudi capital. Shaykh Mohammed Al-Khuzaim, vice president of the General Affairs of the Grand Mosque, visited at the invitation of the program's management, and toured the program's exhibits with one of his young grandchildren. The Shaykh expressed his great delight and admiration of the iThra Knowledge program, describing it as an open venue for education, knowledge and entertainment. He added that the exhibits brought together education and entertainment, which he deemed very useful and helpful in engaging the young generations in knowledge. He added: "I am certain that the visit will culturally impact the youth's knowledge and behavior."

Dr. Al-Khuzaim explained that what he saw were modern means of education. He said: "I believe that the best educational methods are those I saw in iThra Knowledge. They combine audiovisuals with objects and practical application. This can be seen, for example, in the Traffic Safety Pavilion and the unique way of illustrating God Almighty's power through the Divine Names of Allah's Exhibition."

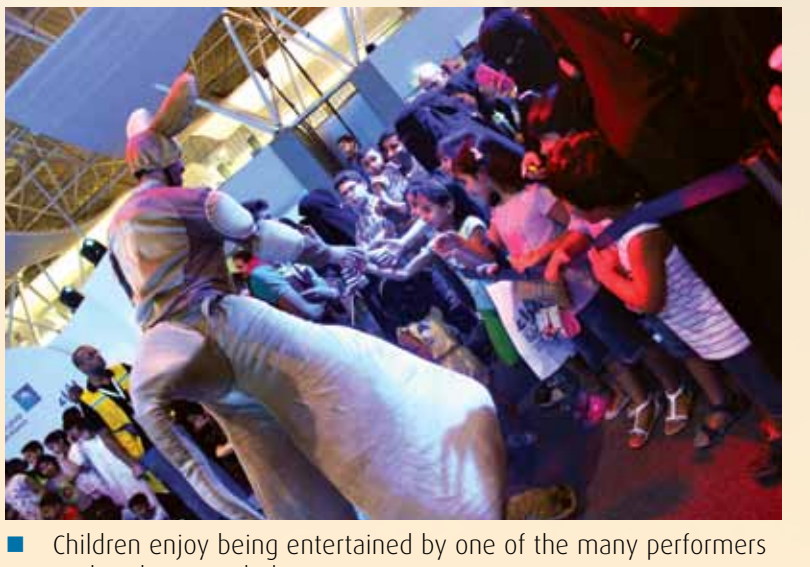
Not far from Shaykh Al-Khuzaim stood the Ambassador of Argentina to Saudi Arabia Jaime Sergio Cerda who was touring the sections of iThra Knowledge program, amazed by the incredible number of exhibitions and activities. He expressed his deep admiration of what he has seen in the corridors of the program, saying that he had expected to merely see an oil exhibition.

The Latin American ambassador described what he saw in the exhibitions of the month-long iThra Knowledge program, which was launched on the second day of 'Id in Riyadh, as a knowledge-rich event capable of educating the visitors in a simple and useful way.

Cerda emphasized that iThra Knowledge is on par with the world's best knowledge events, noting that the titles of the exhibitions bore significant words such as Energy Efficiency and 1001 Inventions. He added: "I used to think that Saudi Aramco's exhibitions and activities were only focused on oil. Contrary to my expectations, I witnessed a program that embodies the spirit of modern times and appeals to all ages."

The Argentine ambassador said that in iThra Knowledge, children can learn through entertainment and educational competitions. He added that children are also inspired by the exhibition to learn about correct environmental habits, which lead to energy efficiency. He said that these educational methods prepare the next generations to assume the careers brought about by the new innovations.

The ambassador promised the people in charge of the program that he will invite his family to visit iThra Knowledge. He also promised to extend the invitation to the Latin American ambassadors in the Kingdom to enjoy the exhibition and its cultural and interactive shows.



■ Children enjoy being entertained by one of the many performers at the Ithra Knowledge program.

Distribution: Putting Safety first

MESHAAL AL-QAHTANI

DAMMAM — In a bid to raise driving safety awareness among truck drivers, Saudi Aramco's Domestic Sales and Logistics Department (DS&LD) has issued the "Guidebook for Defensive Drivers."

DS&LD manager Abdulmohsen Al-Rabiah stressed the importance of the awarenessraising guidebook and its impact in communicating safety driving messages to drivers of petroleum products. He pointed out that progress achieved in safety awareness campaigns would not be possible without the commitment and keenness of their organizers both inside the company and among its partners. He noted that the long-term goal of the guidebook is finding the best practical ways to minimize and effectively manage risks.

Photo: **Musleh Al-Khathami**

■ More than 3,000 oil tankers belonging to contractor companies transport Saudi Aramco products across the Kingdom, covering more than 37 bulk plant locations as well as locations for aircraft refuelling.

Establishment of a product transport network for the future

DS&LD's safety coordinator Tariq Najm Al-Huzami said that the guidebook was developed to help improve the safety and effectiveness of refined petroleum products transport and distribution to various regions of the Kingdom. The establishment of a network for the transport, storage and distribution of these products is currently being considered. Al-Huzami pointed out that pre-planned workshops were held at the company's bulk plants throughout the Kingdom.

More than 3,000 oil tankers belonging to contractor companies with standard design specifications and safety requirements transport Saudi Aramco products across the Kingdom. They cover more than 37 bulk plant locations as well as locations for refueling aircraft in the Kingdom's airports.

Increasing the engagement of local businesses

Ali Ibrahim Sallout, general supervisor of the Hauling and Logistics Operations Division, explained that transporting petroleum products between Saudi Aramco sites is an essential part of industrial and commercial life. It also supports one of the most influential sectors of the national economy, namely the transportation sector, and enhances the participation of the local sector in these contracts, which is one of Saudi Aramco's long-term goals. The company is always keen to ensure that high-quality specifications for tankers, road safety requirements, and environmental protection standards are met.

Employee development

For his part, general supervisor of the Domestic Sales Division, Sultan Al-Godah, called for tighter safety measures in the transport and distribution of petroleum products to the various bulk plants in the cities and regions of the Kingdom, and stressed the importance of developing the workers involved in the transport of these products, raising their awareness of safety procedures, and constantly educating and instructing them about traffic rules in cities and residential areas.

Hamad Al-Saadoun, safety coordinator at the Central Region Distribution Department, emphasized the importance of safety in the transport and distribution of petroleum products. Equally important are improving driver safety, enforcement of safety related regulations and controls to ensure the highest degree of safety for companies, and improving the methods of handling petroleum products to ensure safety instructions are observed during the loading and transport of all kinds of petroleum products.

Instructional documentary

Abulwahab Al-Dossary, safety coordinator at the Eastern Region Distribution Department, said that the safe transportation and delivery of petroleum products can be achieved through educating fuel tanker drivers about safety and emphasizing their role in maintaining the safety of the company's and the Kingdom's roads and facilities. A special film documentary has been produced by Saudi Aramco under the title "Truck Driver's Safety" focusing on all the safety requirements for truck drivers from the moment they enter the bulk plant until they exit it.

Mohammed Al-Arifi, safety coordinator at the Western Region Distribution Department, stressed the need to enforce all of the technical controls related to environmental protection and ensure the safety of all the vehicles and tankers of petroleum products before, during, and after the transportation of petroleum products. He said that concerted efforts by Saudi Aramco, its domestic customers, and petroleum products transport contractors are needed to achieve greater safety while taking environmental considerations into account and preventing any leaks during petroleum product transportation.

Fruitful efforts

The Guidebook for Defensive Drivers includes the most important safety instructions to be followed during the transport of various petroleum products.

All Saudi Aramco's distribution departments ensure that safety programs and measures are applied in all of the steps of petroleum product distribution. In addition, all the trucks coming into bulk plants for filling are checked.

Riyadh Refinery shutdown hailed as an example of excellence in action

RIYADH — Management and employees at the Riyadh Refinery Department (RRD) are celebrating an impressive performance during the recent Total Refinery Shutdown (TRS) —the largest in the history of the department.

The refinery team chalked up a notable three million man-hours with zero lost time injuries (LTI). The TRS involved the servicing of 860 pieces of equipment, the adoption of globally unique technologies, and the efforts of 4,000 employees from 36 local and international contractors. Some 20 percent of the 1,000 Saudi Aramco regular employees involved in the TRS had less than five years of experience and had never worked on a project of its type before.

"One thing that is very clear in this success story we are celebrating today is the importance of people," said Saudi Aramco president and CEO, Khalid A. Al-Falih. "What we saw is a real demonstration of all of Saudi Aramco's values."

The TRS was completed in May two days ahead of schedule and covered 20 percent more equipment with the execution of 60 percent more projects and inspection worksheets than the previous shutdown of its kind completed in 2009. The cost came in at 6 percent less, despite the wider scope of work and inflation.

RRD manager Abdulrehman A. Al-Subaie noted the TRS was supported by 27 Saudi Aramco in-Kingdom and out-of-Kingdom organizations.

A total of 20 employees worked during the shutdown to monitor unsafe acts and document their findings. Daily safety tours were conducted, near misses were reported, and the lessons learned were immediately shared. This was accomplished through an extremely well structured HSE program that fully engaged the entire workforce and all contractors with six loss prevention advisors working around the clock. A 24-hour clinic and ambulance was established to monitor and track the vital signs of employees and provide on the spot medical treatment.

Protecting the environment was also a priority. Special programs were established to ensure the safe handling of all types of generated waste such as pyrophoric spent chemicals and catalysts as well as solid wastes.

The planning process of this shutdown started two years ago when a multidisciplinary team was assigned to develop, plan and prepare the scope of the shutdown.

"This team acted as the nucleus developing the TRS protocols, final scope of work, all TRS contracts and materials requirement and strategies, and coordinating the final detailed execution plan while taking into consideration all TRS activities and tie-ins by PMT for the upcoming clean fuel projects," said Abdullah Utaibi, TRS planning team leader.

A quality assurance (QA) team was established to plan a quality program by reviewing the execution details for each activity, identifying all quality hold point identifications, and defining roles and responsibilities for all parties involved. This program was able to eliminate hydrocarbon leaks upon startup, which resulted in a smooth and safe startup of all refinery facilities.

■ The Total Refinery Shutdown at Riyadh Refinery involved the servicing of 860 pieces of equipment.

The detailed plan was built using the Primavera schedule to identify critical paths and optimize resources and utilization. "One of the examples of the success of this plan was the 30 percent reduction in the number of heavy equipment resources when compared to 2009," said Saleh Qahtani, TRS execution director.

The planning team also focused on controlling the TRS budget through the early procurement and awarding of required contracts. A very stringent prequalification procedure was established to ensure only experienced contractors were awarded six months in advance, which allowed these contractors to participate in the planning process. This early material procurement and active collaboration with Material Supply played a key role in the success of this shutdown through the early procurement of all long lead materials and reduced shipping costs.

RRD deployed several new technologies by coordinating with Central Engineering and R&DC such as the application of the Jentek inspection method to detect weld overlay integrity on HCU reactors. Riyadh Refinery was the first refiner in the world to implement this technology. Another worldwide first implementation was the installation of the newly developed CAN15 hydrocracker catalyst, which was jointly developed by Japan, UOP, and Saudi Aramco. The TRS was also considered an opportunity to plan and execute all integrity and reliability enhancement recommendations related to all RRD UPS systems.

RRD deployed several successful leadership practices and gained a quantum leap in the TRS manpower performance by aligning the workforce under one umbrella, uniting the objectives, identifying and eliminating wrong behaviors and assigning the right responsibilities to the right individual.

The TRS provided an opportunity for young employees to experience a range of activities and familiarize themselves with the shutdown process. Every effort was made to finalize job tasks by ensuring that all of the new engineers, operators and technicians were assigned to critical tasks in order to enrich their knowledge and ensure their readiness for future TRS's.

"This is ultimately a result of great people doing great things, learning from each other and supporting each other and working as a great team," said Al-Falih. "You should all be proud of what you did."

Movies

DHAHRAN

ROBOCOP,
starring Joel Kinnamon, Gary Oldman (action, PG-13) – Aug. 13 and 15, 5.30 p.m., Aug. 14 and 16, 8.00 p.m.

FROZEN,
starring Kristen Bell and, Indina Menzel (animation, PG – Aug.13 and 15, 8.00 p.m, Aug. 14 and 16, 5.30 p.m.

NEED FOR SPEED,
starring Aaron Paul (action PG-13) – Aug 17, 5.30 p.m.

DIVERGENT,
starring Theo James (action, sci-fi, PG-13) – Aug. 17 8:00 p.m.

'UDHAILIYAH

RUSH,
starring Chris Hemsworth, Daniel Bruhl (action, R) – Aug. 13 and 15, 5.00 p.m, Aug. 14 and 16, 8.00 p.m.
.
GETAWAY,
starring Ethane Hawk, Selena Gomez (action, PG-13) – Aug. 13 and 15, 8.00 p.m, Aug 14 and 16, 5.00 p.m.

THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE,
starring Jennifer Lawrence (action, PG-13) – Aug. 17 4.30 p.m.

ANCHORMAN 2,
starring Will Ferrell, Steve Carrell (comedy, R) – Aug 17, 8:00 p.m.

ABQAIQ

THE INCREDIBLE BURT WONDERSTONE,
starring Steve Carrell (comedy, PG-13) – Aug. 13 and 15, 5.00 and 7:30 p.m.

PLANES,
starring Dane Cook, Stacey Keach (animation, PG) – Aug. 14 and 16, 5.00 and 7:30 p.m.

ENDERS GAME,
starring Asa Butterfield, Harrison Ford, (action, PG-13) – Aug. 17 5.00 and 7.30 p.m.

NAJMA

ALL IS LOST,
starring Robert Redfrod, (action, PG-13) – Aug. 13 and 15, 4.45 and 7:30 p.m.

SMURFS 2,
starring Hank Azaria, Neil Patrick Harriss (comedy, PG) – Aug. 14 and 16, 4.45 and 7:30 p.m.

Photographic Memory

Photo: **S.M. Amin**

■ Community residents welcome in 1979 the new Greyhound-Taseco buses for inter-area service between Aramco communities and within the community itself. For the first time in the area, the buses included air conditioners and ensured more comfortable transportation on all Aramco runs.

Sudoku

Easy

Each row, column and 3-by-3 square must contain only one of each digit, from 1-9.

	2	9	5					7
	7			8				
4	5		6					9
			3			4		6
7		4			6			
3					5		8	2
				3			9	
6					8	3	4	

Last week's answer

5	9	8	3	4	6	7	2	1
3	1	7	9	5	2	8	4	6
4	2	6	1	8	7	9	3	5
7	6	4	5	9	8	3	1	2
9	8	5	2	1	3	4	6	7
2	3	1	7	6	4	5	8	9
8	4	2	6	7	9	1	5	3
1	7	3	8	2	5	6	9	4
6	5	9	4	3	1	2	7	8

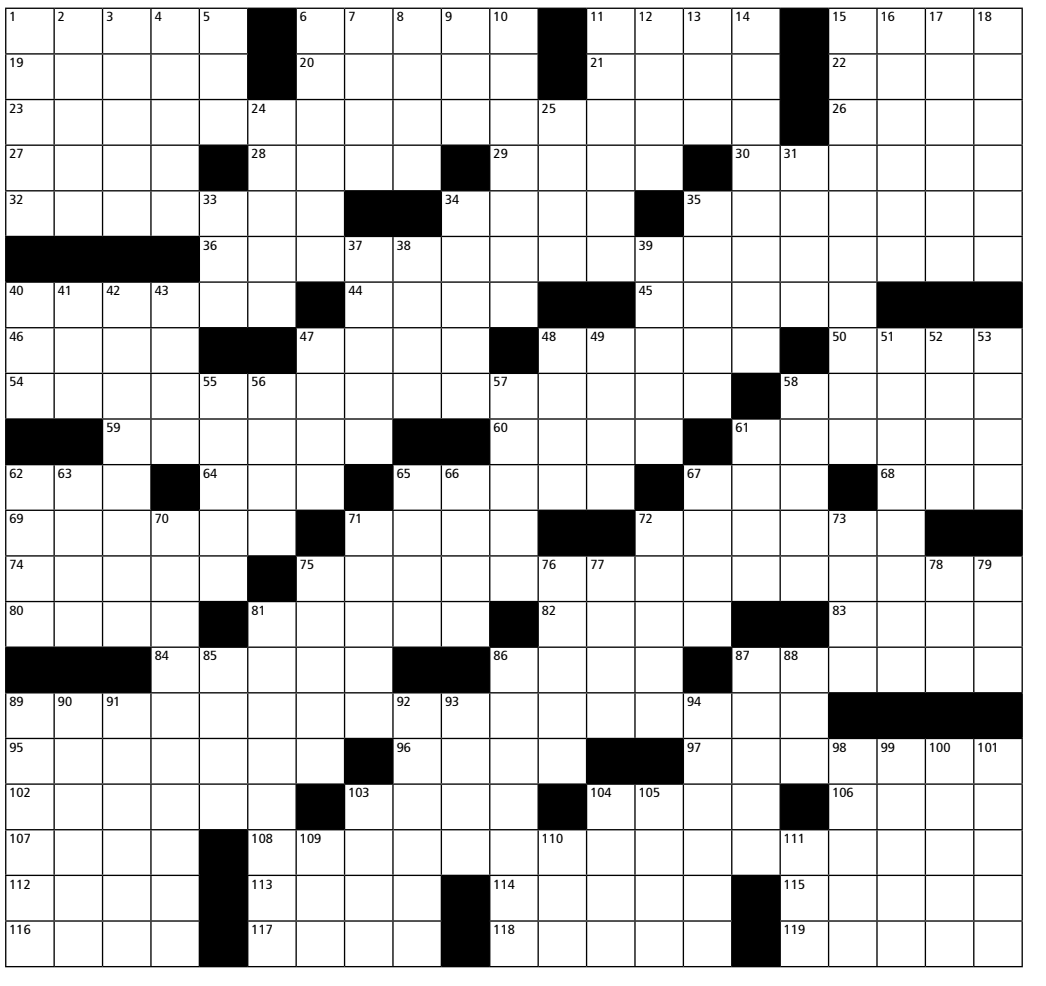
(C) yoogi.com

Crossword

"KIDDIE LIT" By AMY JOHNSON

ACROSS
1 Beijing Zoo attraction
6 It's often seen in sheets
11 Spreadsheet figures
15 Foolhardy
19 TWA competitor
20 Cowboy's rope
21 Baylor, for one: Abbr.
22 Analogy words
23 Tolstoy tale of child's play?
26 Robert De __
27 Giga- x 1,000
28 St. Laurent of fashion
29 Upper-bod muscle
30 Hit song of 1950
32 Get cozy
34 Like Death Valley
35 Stud site
36 Carson tale of well-behaved classroom clock watchers?
40 Certain school team activity
44 Kick
45 __ double take
46 Botanical coating
47 "Fernando" band
48 Matches at the poker table
50 Hoover and Mossyrock
54 Dickens tale of math woes?
58 Drink that lost the second part of its name in 1961
59 Mended, in a way
60 Israel's Iron Lady
61 War movie staples
62 Diplomatic rep.
64 Nods, say
65 Evade
67 1921 sci-fi play
68 Biol. or chem.
69 Artichoke servings
71 Earth has one
72 Overdo the buffet, say
74 These, in Juarez
75 Palahniuk tale of a rowdy slumber party society?
80 Half a fish
81 Welles of "War of the Worlds"
82 "Return of the Jedi" dancer
83 Apollo landers, briefly
84 Grannies
86 Samoan capital
87 Gets
89 Orwell tale of Beanie Baby breeding?
95 Oregon coastal city
96 Late notice?
97 Berlin School psychological theory
102 Excitable cell
103 Billionaire bank founder Andy
104 Latin trio member
106 Wind in a pit
107 Parisian's "to be"
108 Updike tale of an idle cereal mascot?
112 Employee IDs
113 Actor Morales
114 What a white flag may mean
115 Complete
116 __ drive
117 "Father of the American Cartoon"
118 "Symphony in Black" et al.
119 "The Gondoliers" bride

DOWN
1 Forgoes the gimme
2 Like Dracula's visage
3 Tiny republic formerly called Pleasant Island
4 Yankee legend, familiarly
5 Wall St. trader 6 Fish tank flooring
7 Old Bologna bread
8 Wiimote inserts
9 Stop: Abbr.
10 Most mournful
11 One with a second
12 Med sch. subject
13 Poker game tell, maybe
14 Batting figures
15 Mastermind
16 "The Robots of Dawn" author
17 Disco light
18 "Sesame Street" store owner
24 Poet Elinor
25 Cop's quarry
31 Lab greetings
33 Prime meridian std.
34 Source of brown fur
35 Carbon compounds
37 Receded
38 Noggins
39 Hardly a doer
40 Code word
41 Timeline chapter
42 Pool on a pedestal
43 "The Aviator" Oscar nominee
47 Skunk River city
48 Highway breaker?
49 Came down
51 Last Supper attendees
52 PC processing unit
53 "Absolutely, amigo!"
55 Races with sulkies
56 Tattoo parlor supplies
57 PABA part
58 Texarkana-born '90s candidate
61 Julia's "Notting Hill" co-star
62 "If I may butt in ..."
63 Phoenix suburb
65 "Take it!" response, in a jazz club
66 City on the Rhein
67 Latvia's most populous city
70 Rapidly shrinking ecosystem
71 Didn't __ beat
72 Rice style
73 Jim Morrison's alma mater
75 The Devil's label?
76 Tom of "The Dukes of Hazzard"
77 Straight man
78 Base decision maker
79 Undergrad degs.
81 Not a great chance
85 Hendrix hairdo
86 Comment from one rushing in
87 Actress Scacchi
88 Condo divs.
89 Having the most marbles
90 Sub-Saharan menace
91 Reversals
92 "You can't get out this way"
93 Building beam
94 Shooting marbles
98 Dessert cart goodie
99 Drives the getaway car for
100 Blows, perhaps
101 Aquarium swimmer
103 Predisposition
104 Be up against
105 Mickey and Minnie
109 Pres. Mandela's land
110 Winter outburst?
111 "Shame on you!"



Crossword answer

D	O	G	I	T	■	O	C	T	O	P	I	■	C	A	T	C	A	L	L	S
O	P	E	R	A	■	W	A	I	V	E	S	■	A	R	B	O	R	E	A	L
B	R	E	A	K	I	N	G	N	E	W	S	■	R	E	A	L	E	A	S	Y
B	A	N	N	E	D	■	E	A	R	■	U	K	E	S	■	B	O	D	E	S
S	H	A	T	T	E	R	S	■	P	R	I	E	D	■	D	E	L	I	■	■
■	■	■	■	O	S	H	■	S	A	O	N	E	■	D	U	R	A	N	T	E
A	G	R	A	■	T	I	P	P	I	N	G	P	O	I	N	T	■	G	O	V
B	L	U	N	T	■	N	E	R	D	■	■	■	D	O	N	■	A	Q	U	I
C	I	N	N	A	M	O	N	■	■	U	P	S	I	D	E	■	H	U	R	L
S	T	N	■	F	I	S	H	I	N	G	L	I	N	E	■	S	A	E	N	S
■	T	I	E	T	O	■	■	N	O	L	A	N	■	■	B	O	S	S	A	■
T	E	N	T	S	■	S	I	T	T	I	N	G	B	U	L	L	■	T	M	I
E	R	G	O	■	A	C	R	O	S	S	■	■	E	N	T	I	T	I	E	S
N	A	A	N	■	L	O	A	■	■	■	S	O	N	S	■	D	R	O	N	E
L	T	R	■	R	O	U	S	I	N	G	C	H	E	E	R	■	A	N	T	E
B	I	G	G	E	S	T	■	S	O	R	E	S	■	N	E	G	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	U	R	L	S	■	A	N	T	O	N	■	S	T	O	N	E	M	A	N
M	A	M	I	E	■	P	A	T	E	■	A	S	P	■	R	A	C	I	N	E
A	M	E	N	A	M	E	N	■	P	A	R	T	I	N	G	W	O	R	D	S
R	I	N	G	R	O	A	D	■	A	P	I	E	C	E	■	A	L	E	R	T
I	N	T	O	N	A	T	E	■	D	O	O	M	E	D	■	T	I	D	E	S

NITI summer program boosts skills

EAMONN HOUSTON

ABQAIQ — Some 110 young Saudis participated in a special summer training program provided by the National Industrial Training Institute (NITI) at its Abqaiq facility.

NITI, a nonprofit organization, is a joint undertaking of Saudi Aramco and the Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC). The organization's goal is to foster community growth, reduce unemployment and support Saudization efforts.

The Summer Program focused on upskilling trainees in English language proficiency, computer studies and safety. All of the students who completed the program – 27 percent of whom were orphans – were honored at a graduation ceremony held at the Abqaiq facility recently.

■ 110 young Saudis participated in the progam – 27 percent of whom were orphans.

Chairman of NITI, Saudi Aramco vice president of Pipelines, Terminals and Distribution, Mohammed A. Al-Omair, congratulated the graduates and spoke of the importance of the program.

"I would like to congratulate all of those who participated successfully in the NITI Summer Program for 2014. The program is a wonderful opportunity for young students to develop and enhance essential skills, both related to language, computer technologies and the very important area of safety.

"All of NITI's activities and programs are geared toward raising the knowledge and skill levels among young Saudis and thereby provide a ready and capable workforce of the future for the oil and gas industries. The summer program is an example of how NITI applies its ethos of training, learning and creation of local content through the latest teaching techniques and technology on a year-round basis," Al-Omair said.

Saad Shahrani, project manager with NITI, said that the program had been a success. Construction of a massive NITI campus at Al-Hasa is on track for completion later this year.

"NITI is a not-for-profit training institute that has made social responsibility an integral part of its business model," said Shahrani.

"Beside the other four values of NITI, Excellence, Safety, Teamwork and Customer Focus, NITI is contributing to the economic development while improving the quality of education of the workforce as well as the local community and society at large by applying its fifth value of Citizenship."

The three-week long program benefitted High School level students from Abqaiq and its surrounding villages.

Its objective was to align with NITI's commitment to local communities. NITI developed the program to educate and develop the skills of students in the English language, computers as well as raise awareness of road safety, safety at home and fire prevention.

Bulletin Board

Sports

Rolling Hills Golf Club (RHGC): RHGC is delighted to introduce beginners and newcomers to the game of golf with "Golf in a Week — an in-depth program covering all you need to know to get out on the course. The program, done in a fun and relaxed atmosphere, will run evenings from Sept. 7-11 with all equipment and range balls supplied. Cost is only SR600. Email *stuart.hurstfield@aramco.com* for more information or stop by the pro shop to register.

Medical/Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare (JHAH)

To comment on this information, issued by JHAH, please email *Jacqueline.Mullen@jhah.com*. Telephone contacts have been provided below, where possible, for dependents and retirees. Employees are to access medical information online:

• **Calendar of Health Care Events** *http://JHAH* > Health Education > Calendar of Health Care Events > Campaigns / Webinars / Programs — for more information / to register for activities.

• **News from Medical Online:** *http://JHAH* > Announcements: What's New in Medical.

Safety Message: Hand hygiene is the number one way to prevent infection. Rub your hands with a handsanitizing solution or wash them with soap and water for 15-20 seconds for it to be effective. Hand hygiene is especially important before eating and after coughing or sneezing.

JHAH Registered Patients for all Areas

• **Emergency Numbers:** For your safety, save the emergency numbers to your mobile phone. From a land line inside Saudi Aramco, dial 110 for security, ambulance or fire. From outside Saudi Aramco, dial 997 for ambulance and 998 for fire.

Johns Hopkins Aramco Healthcare

• **Appointments:** To make Medical or Dental appointments, visit *http://myhome* > myInformation > Medical or call 800-305-4444 (in-Kingdom) or +966-13-877-3888 (out-of-Kingdom).
• **For info**, visit *http://JHAH*.
• **Have health care joint venture questions?** Email *Healthcare.JV@aramco.com.*
• **Help with your health care:** Medical Relations (previously Medical Customer Service Network), email *mcsn@aramco.com* or call 800-305-4444 (in-Kingdom) or +966-13-877-3888 (out-of-Kingdom).
• **Urgent health care access helpline** for MDF patients, call 055-600-0468 (after 4 p.m.).
• **Feeling Stressed?** Have psychological, emotional or social problems? For a Community Counseling Clinic appointment, call 013-877-8400.
• **Quit Smoking.** JHAH is offering to help all employees, dependents, contractors and retirees quit smoking; email *SmokingCessation@aramco.com.*

• "**Medical" on myhome Corporate Portal:** To access multiple medical services, visit the Corporate Portal *http://myhome* > myInformation > Medical to make and cancel appointments; access medication information, (process refills; request refills; renew prescription from physicians; check request status and access drug information) change medical providers; access latest recorded results for cholesterol, blood glucose levels or hemoglobin levels; immunizations records; blood group certificates; release of medical information; no-show history; dental bill; or to retain SMS reminders details.

• **SMS reminder:** Never miss a medical/dental appointment again; register for the SMS reminder service. Update your mobile number on the Corporate Portal at *http://myhome* > myInformation > Medical > "Maintain SMS Reminder Details." Dependents call 800-305-4444 to activate or deactivate the SMS reminder services and update a mobile number. SMS reminders are sent 48 hours in advance of the appointment date to all patients registered for the service who booked an appointment 48 hours or more before the appointment date.

Medical Designated Facilities Department (MDFD) Registered Patients:

• **Emergency numbers:** For your safety, save the emergency numbers to your mobile phone — dial 997 for ambulance 997 and 998 for fire.

• **Help with your health care:** For Medical Relations (previously Medical Customer Service Network), email *mcsn@aramco.com* or call 800-305-4444 (in-Kingdom) or +966-13-877-3888 (out-of-Kingdom).

• **Make a medical, dental or mental health appointment:** View the MDF list of contacts and website links at *http://JHAH* > Hospitals and Clinics Contacts > MDF.

• **Urgent health care access helpline** for MDF patients 055-600-0468 (after 4 p.m.).

Abqaiq

• **Emergency numbers:** For your safety, save the emergency numbers to your mobile phone. From a land line inside Saudi Aramco, dial 110 for security, ambulance or fire. From your mobile phone inside Abqaiq, dial (013) 572-0110. From outside Saudi Aramco, dial 997 for ambulance and 998 for fire.

Al-Hasa

• **Dental:** Patients from al-Hasa should go to the Abqaiq or 'Udhailiyah dental clinics.

• **Emergency numbers:** For your safety, save the emergency numbers to your mobile phone. Dial 997 for ambulance and 998 for the fire department.

Dhahran

• **Al-Midra Wellness Center** offers consultation, lifestyle wellness coaching and health screenings (Sunday-Thursday, 1-3:30 p.m.) and other services, including blood donation (Monday and Wednesday, 8 a.m.-noon) and pharmacy (Sunday-Thursday, noon-4 p.m.) For info, visit *http://JHAH* > A-Z Services > Al-Midra Wellness Center.

• **Are you pregnant?** Attend the Pregnancy Wellness Program in Arabic or in English. To register, email *Eman.Mutairi@JHAH.com* (You must be 12 weeks or more into a pregnancy.) Register for the Pregnancy Tour — Mother and Baby Unit (3H) in Arabic or in English. Tour starts at 1 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of the month. To register, email *nesreen.fares@JHAH.com*. (You must be 30 weeks or more into your pregnancy.) For more information about both programs, visit *http://JHAH* > Health Education > Calendar of Health Care Events > Programs.

• **Become a volunteer:** To volunteer, you must be in good health, at least 18 and have a good understanding of English. Email *Faten.muslem@JHAH.com* with your educational background and skills, and how many days per week and hours per day you can volunteer.

• **Donate blood** at Dhahran Health Center (Sunday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-2 p.m.) and at Al-Midra Tower Monday and Wednesday, 8 a.m.-noon. Call the Blood Bank at (013) 877-6770/6638 during regular working hours or register online *http://JHAH* > A-Z Services > Blood Donation. Thank you for your gift of life.

• **Emergency numbers:** For your safety, save the emergency numbers to your mobile phone. From a land line inside Saudi Aramco, dial 110 for security, ambulance or fire. From your mobile phone inside Saudi Aramco, dial (013) 872-0110. From outside Saudi Aramco, dial 997 for ambulance and 998 for fire department.

• **Help with your health care:** For Medical Relations (previously Medical Customer Service Network), email *mcsn@aramco.com* or call 800-305-4444 (in-Kingdom) or +966-013-877-3888 (out-of-Kingdom).

Ras Tanura

• **Emergency Numbers:** For your safety, save the emergency numbers to your mobile phone. From a land line inside Saudi Aramco, dial 110 for security, ambulance or fire department. From your mobile phone inside Ras Tanura, dial (013) 673-0110. From outside Saudi Aramco, dial 997 for ambulance or 998 for fire department

•Wellness Clinic at Ras Tanura: Employees and dependents are encouraged to take charge of their health by having regular screenings. Employees can participate in wellness events and activities at the workplace. Meet us on Tuesday August 26, 2014 at West Admin Building in Ras Tanura from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. and take charge of your health.

'Udhailiyah

• **Emergency numbers:** For your safety, save the emergency numbers to your mobile phone. From a land line inside Saudi Aramco, dial 110 for security, ambulance or fire department. From outside Saudi Aramco, dial 997 for ambulance or 998 for fire department. From your mobile phone inside 'Udhailiyah, dial (013) 576-7110. From outside Saudi Aramco, dial 997 for ambulance or 998 for the fire department.

SAEA

Special offer for SAEA members ONLY!!! Wahoo Water Park tickets are 50% off the regular ticket price; tickets are on sale NOW at the SAEA office.

Fungo – Friday, August 22

Formula Kart KSA - Dammam

Billy Beez.Coach to Bahrain's City Center every Saturday Coach departs Aramco 9:30 a.m. and Depart City Center 6:30 p.m.

An Evening at the Movies

Al Hokair Entertainment Center

Al Rashid Entertainment Center

RamRoma Land at Venecia Mall in Khobar and Marina Mall in Dammam

Lost Paradise of Dilmun Water Park in Bahrain. Download the SAEA Dateline newsletter at the following address: http://sharek/orgs/30002961/Self%20Directed%20Group/Documents/Dhahran/Special%20Interest%20Groups/SAEA/dateline.pdf

The SAEA office is open from Sunday to Thursday, 3 to 5 p.m. for ticket sales. SAEA is located at 1424 King's Road every Thursday at Al Midra from 11:30am – 1pm. For further information on the above events, please contact the SAEA office at 872-0117.

Inside this issue

110 young Saudis take part in special NITI summer program. *See page 7*

SA LIFE

Abqaiq's celebrations enthrall community

NAZIHA BAQAI

ABQAIQ — Organized by the Abqaiq Recreation Services Unit, Abqaiq's Ramadan Nights enchanted over 1,000 community members and guests over three consecutive Wednesdays during Ramadan. The festivities continued over the 'Id holidays with special events held in the Abqaiq community and at Qurayyah Beach.

■ Girgayan bought an evening of fun and entertainment for Abqaiq residents.

Photos: **Masud Rana**

■ Children and adults alike enjoyed 'Id activities in Abqaiq. .

Girgayan Night

A centuries-old tradition, Girgayan is celebrated about mid-Ramadan and is truly all about children, who set out into their neighborhood in groups, carrying bright fabric bags lovingly hand-stitched — usually by a grandmother, — knocking on doors, singing traditional songs and asking for sweets and nuts. Although these days many of the pretty grandmother-bags have been replaced by the commercially prepared boxes and baskets of candy, the spirit of celebrating the custom has not changed.

Arabian Night

The Arabian Night focused on the culture of Arabic speaking countries east of the Mediterranean. Also called Shami countries, these include Egypt, Jordon, Palestine, Lebanon and Syria. Some glimpses into the Shami area culture were provided by the Dabka – the traditional Arab folk dance – accompanied by the Shami band; musaharati, the age old tradition of beating the drum in the streets to awaken people for sahoor, the meal eaten before dawn to begin the fast; and sharab el toot, mulberry juice in a huge traditional pitcher, strapped on the shoulder of a server offering glassfuls to the thirsty crowd.

Henna Night

What Girgayan Night is to children, Henna Night was to women and young girls who turned out in droves to have their hands painted in beautiful henna designs. The delightful scene of scattered groups of women chatting happily as the henna experts applied intricate motifs, certainly heralded the upcoming 'Id, of which the henna painted hands are an integral part.

The three evenings were a unique experience for all Abqaiq community members, serving not only as a window to local customs, but also providing an excellent opportunity to meet people and make new friends. Enjoying the Girgayan Night with her three children, resident Bola Salako from Nigeria remarked, "It's a very nice event that keeps the local customs alive for the expats."

'Id al-Fitr

Abqaiq's jubilant 'Id celebrations were not only fun and family-friendly affairs but also provided an opportunity to promote hydration safety and water safety for the 2,130 employees and their families who attended these events in Abqaiq's residential community and at Qurayyah Beach. Along with traditional Saudi Ardah bands, hijazzi folklore, horse rides and a variety of games and entertainment, lifeguards performed live rescue demonstrations and employees were invited to test their water safety knowledge by taking a quiz.

Readers Album

Waves of beauty

■ This beautiful scenic photo of the Mediterranean Sea at Hamat, Lebanon (between Batroun and Tripoli) was captured by Kim Karam. Using her Canon EOS Rebel T1i camera, she took the photo while on holiday. Karam and her husband Nicolas have lived and worked at Ras Tanura for 6 years.